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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Paul Manly
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**Hon. Marc Garneau
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa K1A 0A6**

**Hon. Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa K1A 0A6**

Sept.5/2019

Dear Ministers Garneau and McKenna,

I am writing to urge immediate steps to phase out the shipment of American thermal coal from the Port of Vancouver.

I share the serious concerns of James Kerr, a retired Environment Canada Senior Research Scientist, who made a strong case to end this practice in emails sent to you on March 20, 2019.

Mr. Kerr has compiled a long list of reasons why Westshore Terminals should not be shipping close to 13 million tonnes of thermal coal from Roberts Bank, B.C., to markets in South Korea, Japan, and Chile.

- Thermal coal is one of the dirtiest fuels used to generate electricity and is a major contributor to the global climate crisis.
- Airborne coal dust poses health risks during rail transport and while it is stored at the port.
- Runoff rainwater carries toxic contaminants to environmentally sensitive delta water.
- Increased freighter traffic to carry the coal has led to overcrowding at English Bay with more ships now anchoring in the Gulf Islands.

- These freighters disrupt habitat for endangered orcas and other marine life and damage the sea bottom with dragging anchors.
- People who live near these free marine parking lots are forced to endure noise and air pollution from the vessels that run generators constantly.

There is no justification for Canada to allow coal that is mined in Montana and Wyoming to be shipped by rail to the west coast of British Columbia and loaded onto ships that must pass through the Salish Sea.

As Mr. Kerr notes, Washington, Oregon, and California do not allow this dirty coal to be shipped from their ports. Our environmental protection laws, which were weakened by the previous government, need to be strengthened to stop this hazardous practice in British Columbia.

It is hypocritical for Canada to allow U.S. coal shipments across our land and coastal waters after entering into international agreements, such as the Powering Past Coal Alliance, which is aimed at reducing coal power generation.

Canada has declared a climate emergency and has obligations under the Paris Climate Agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions. The federal government needs to stop catering to the U.S. coal industry and take measures that put health, safety, and protection of the environment ahead of profits.

Sincerely,



Paul Manly,
Member of Parliament
Nanaimo-Ladysmith